WW 8/23

HAL VERB
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AUG. 20, 2001

HAROLD WEISBERG
7627 OLD RECEIVER ROAD
FREDERICK, MD. 21701

Dear Hal:

I'm sorry I didn't write you sooner but a few things have happened to me since I last wrote you.

As you are no doubt aware by now but on Monday, July 9TH I was at the hospital where I had an angiogram taken of me. After the angiogram (in fact, the very next day) they were to have the surgery done on my heart (aortic + mitral valve replacement). But the surgery was postponed because the two cardiologists examining me found out that I had what they determined to be "Marfan Syndrome". I've been told (but never completely confirmed) that this condition was one that President Lincoln had. What it is, is a connective tissue disorder which could affect a heart operation.

The surgeon who was originally supposed to carry out my initial surgery was replaced by what my doctors told me would be better for me — supposedly he is familiar with the "Marfan Syndrome" + when I met with him he gave me some details on this.

They were, then, to establish a new date for my surgery but after my doctor had some chest X-rays taken of me it was learned that I had

an infection in my lungs which was bronchitis. I was coughing (& still am). They've given me different medications for this (but the coughing still persists). From what I've learned so far the Syndrome causes the coughing. Supposedly it is hereditary (probably'd obtained it from my father who died of TB in the late 30's).

In any event, I'm to undergo a "breathing test" on Thursday, Aug. 23rd & my doctors will proceed from there. My doctors tell me under no circumstances will they perform surgery until & unless my bronchitis is done with.

So that is how it stands.

Dave Wrone has called me a few times & I keep him in touch. As soon as I do find out when my surgery date is set, I'll let Dave know.

This should keep you up to date with my situation as of now.

I do hope you & Lillian are OK.

Will write when more info comes in.

Best,

Hal Verb